

IN THE CLAIMS:

In accordance with the Revised Rules under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please amend the claims as shown below. The claims shown below may be indicated as original, currently amended, previously amended, cancelled, previously cancelled, withdrawn, previously withdrawn, new, previously added, reinstated, previously reinstated, re-presented and/or allowed. In accordance with the Rules, the text of cancelled or withdrawn claims need not be presented.

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1. (once amended) A process for searching a database of entries, comprising the steps of:  
providing a database of entries, at least part of said entries being mapped to a set of categories, at least part of said entries being associated with keywords;  
in response to a first query of a user,  
selecting categories among said set of categories according to the entries returned by said query;  
dynamically selecting keywords associated with ~~to~~ the entries returned by said query; and  
displaying to the user said selected categories and said selected keywords; and  
in response to the user, activating one of said displayed categories and said displayed keywords, starting a second query refining the first inquiry.

2. (once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the categories are organized in a tree or directed acyclic graph structure.

3. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the keyword is a sequence of words or a sequence of stemmed words.

4. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the selected categories and selected keywords are displayed similarly.

5. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the selected categories are displayed separately from selected keywords.

6. (currently amended) The process of one of claims 1, further including that step of starting a new query when a user activates one of said displayed categories and one of said displayed

keywords.

7. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the step of activating includes excluding from the said query of the user a displayed category or keyword.

8. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein the step of activating includes refining the query of the user to said category or keyword.

9. (original) The process of one of claims 1, further including displaying to the user a list of entries returned by the query.

10. (original) The process of claim 9, further including displaying in said list a category to which at least an entry of said list is mapped.

11. (original) The process of claim 10, further including displaying the entries included in a category when the user selects said category in said list.

12. (original) The process of claim 11, further including ranking the entries included in said category before they are displayed.

13. (original) The process of one of claims 2, wherein categories are hierarchically organized, and wherein the step of displaying includes displaying categories of different hierarchical levels.

14. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein a category is formed of a set of at least two attributes.

15. (currently amended) A process for searching a database of entries, comprising the steps of:

providing a database of entries, at least part of said entries being mapped to a set of hierarchically organized categories, at least part of said entries being associated with keywords;

in response to a first query of a user,

selecting categories of different hierarchical levels among said set of categories according to the entries returned by said query;

dynamically selecting keywords associated to the entries returned by said query ; and

displaying to the user said selected categories and said selected keywords; and  
in response to the user, activating one of said displayed categories and said displayed

keywords, starting a second query refining the first inquiry.

16. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the categories are organized in a tree or directed acyclic graph structure.

17. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein a keyword is a sequence of words or a sequence of stemmed words.

18. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the selected categories and selected keywords are displayed similarly.

19. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the selected categories are displayed separately from selected keywords.

20. (original) The process of one of claims 15, further including the step of starting a new query when a user activates one of said displayed categories and keywords.

21. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the step of activating includes excluding from the said query of the user a displayed category or keyword.

22. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the step of activating includes refining the query of the user to said category or keyword.

23. (original) The process of one of claims 15, further including displaying to the user a list of entries returned by the query.

24. (original) The process of claim 23, further including displaying in said list a category to which at least an entry of said list is mapped.

25. (original) The process of claim 24, further including displaying the entries included in a category when the user selects said category in said list.

26. (original) The process of claim 25, further including ranking the entries included in said category before they are displayed.

27. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein a category is formed of a set of at least two attributes.

28. (currently amended) A searching tool comprising:  
a search server for receiving queries from users, the search server transmitting results to users;  
a database of entries, at least part of said entries being mapped to a set of categories,

at least part of said entries being associated with keywords, wherein the search server includes  
means for searching the database and for selecting categories among said set  
of categories according to the entries returned by said a first query;  
means for dynamically selecting keywords associated to the entries returned  
by said query; and  
wherein the results transmitted to the users include said selected categories  
and said selected keywords; and  
means for activating one of said selected categories and said selected  
keywords to start a second query to refine the first query.

29. (original) The tool of claim 28, wherein the search server is a HTTP server.

30. (original) The tool of claim 28, wherein the entries are textual entries and the database  
includes an inverted index, said categories being entries of said inverted index.

31. (currently amended) A process for searching a database of entries, comprising the  
steps of:

providing a database of entries, at least part of said entries being mapped to a set of  
categories, at least part of said entries being associated with keywords;

in response to a first query of a user;

selecting categories among said set of categories according to the entries  
returned by said query;

dynamically selecting keywords associated to the entries returned by said  
query; and

displaying to the user said selected categories and said selected keywords  
wherein a category in said set of categories is formed of a set of at least two attributes; and

in response to the user, activating one of said displayed categories and said displayed  
keywords, starting a second query refining the first inquiry.

32. (original) The process of claim 31, wherein the categories are organized in a tree or  
directed acyclic graphic structure.

33. (original) The process of claim 31, wherein a keyword is a sequence of words or a  
sequence of stemmed words.

34. (original) The process of claim 31, wherein the selected categories and selected keywords are displayed similarly.

35. (original) The process of claim 31, wherein the selected categories are displayed separately from selected keywords.

36. (original) The process of one of claims 31, further comprising a step of starting a new query when a user activates one of said displayed categories and keywords.

37. (original) The process of claim 36, wherein the step of activating comprises excluding from the said query of the user a displayed category or keyword.

38. (original) The process of claim 37, wherein the step of activating comprises refining the said query of the user to the said category or keyword.

Al 39. (original) The process of claim 31, further comprising displaying to the user a list of entries returned by the query.

40. (original) The process of claim 39, further comprising displaying in said list a category to which at least an entry of said list is mapped.

41. (original) The process of claim 40, further comprising displaying the entries comprised in a category when the user selects said category in said list.

42. (original) The process of claim 41, further comprising ranking the entries comprised in said category before they are displayed.

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## REMARKS

### Introductory Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

### Remarks Regarding The Drawings

Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding the informal drawings and respectfully wishes to inform the Examiner that formal drawings were submitted in documents filed October 29, 2001 filed along with a Response To File Missing Parts of Application. —